

in favor of his motion to refer the credentials to the Judiciary Committee, which was promptly negated by a party vote. The question was then put on the admission, which was passed by the same strict drawing of the party lines. Only one thing remained, which was that the first colored Senator elect should advance to the Speaker's desk and be sworn. The Vice-President made the announcement to the galleries that all demonstrations of approval or disapproval would be promptly suppressed. There had been through the debate one or two such demonstrations, once from the Republican side, when Mr. Scott, in reply to Mr. Bayard, declared that he abandoned the Democratic Party when it raised its hand in rebellion, and again when Mr. Stockton prophesied that the Democracy would soon control national affairs. In view of these facts, Mr. Colfax's announcement was somewhat necessary. When the Vice-President uttered the words, "The Senator elect will now advance and take the oath," a pin might have been heard drop. But as Senator Wilson rose in his seat and stepped to the lounge immediately behind his desk, where Mr. Revels was sitting, to escort that gentleman to the Speaker's desk, the galleries rose to their feet, that they might miss no word or lose no glimpse of what was being enacted below. The ceremony was short. Mr. Revels showed no embarrassment whatever, and his demeanor was as dignified as could be expected under the circumstances. The abuse which had been poured upon him and on his race during the last two days might well have shaken the nerves of any one. The vast throng in the galleries showed no sign of feeling one way or the other, and left very quietly.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY H. MILLER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, when the lights were dimmed and the spotlight shone on the empty seat at the end of Row A on the edge of the Utah Jazz basketball court last Saturday night, it symbolized so much more than the absence of its usual occupant. It demonstrated in very poignant, solemn terms the loss Utah experienced a few days ago with the death of one of its most beloved and prolific citizens, Larry H. Miller.

On Friday, February 20, 2009, Larry H. Miller quietly passed away in his home with his beloved wife and family by his side. At the age of 64, by all estimates, Larry left this earth way too early. His body had been ravaged over the past year with various medical maladies resulting from complications of Type 2 Diabetes. Yet, even though his body was physically depleted, his fighting spirit and pragmatic wisdom continued until his very last breath. I do not think anyone was really prepared to lose this mighty man.

Larry came from humble beginnings. His life story exemplified from start to finish the true American dream. By all accounts his education and intelligence was not honed in a classroom, but in the workplace of our nation. Through odd jobs and a beginning career as an auto parts stock boy, he quickly graduated to owning his first car dealership with a business deal struck in an afternoon visit with an old acquaintance.

Larry's business acumen was legendary. The risks he took were enor-

mous and the decisions he made on a daily basis would stifle even the most experienced business leader. However, because of the risks he was willing to take and the business decisions he had the courage to make, the impact he left in every corner of our State cannot be overstated.

From the days of his first car enterprise, his empire grew to include many car dealerships, movie theaters, restaurants, television and radio stations, a first-class sports arena, a race track, sports memorabilia and apparel stores, a professional baseball team, and of course, our cherished Utah Jazz.

His professional life was punctuated by hard work, ingenuity, and good old-fashioned common sense. He was a man who wore many hats, and wore them well. He was plain spoken, and very direct in sharing his thoughts and opinions. He did not live a life of flash, but one of more humble trappings. I cannot think of Larry without picturing him at so many events, no matter the importance, in his trademark casual pants and golf shirt. He was a man who lived by his own creed, and never let anyone else define him.

The relationships he developed, and consequently shared with Utah, have brushed our community with great color. Karl Malone, John Stockton, Jerry Sloan, Deron Williams, Thurl Bailey, Mark Eaton, and Jeff Hornacek are only a few people Larry befriended, hired, and mentored who have provided many hours of great sports entertainment to fans across the country. I know that personalities from time to time would clash, but at the end of the day Larry, and those who worked for or played for him, shared a mutual respect and love not often found in professional sports today.

Larry not only contributed mightily to Utah's business climate, he also served in so many ways to improve the lives of people from all walks of life. His sense of community, and love for our State, were felt by all who came into contact with him. He did so many generous acts of service for his fellow man, quietly and behind the scenes, which most will never know occurred. He believed in people, and he loved helping many find the right path to follow.

Larry Miller will forever be remembered for his business empire and leadership skills, but perhaps his greatest contribution was in the walls of his own home. He loved and cherished his wife of 48 years, Gail, as well as his five children, 21 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He tutored them in the ways of business, but more importantly, in the love of family. As he began facing later years, Larry was quoted on many occasions stating his renewed desire to be the kind of husband, father, and grandfather he wanted to be. Within hours of Larry passing away, Gail and their children held a news conference praising the man they had known and loved. Their strength in his passing, I believe came from the

love and care Larry had bestowed on each of them throughout his life.

Utah lost a great man, and I lost a treasured friend. Throughout the years of my service in the United States Senate I would often look to Larry Miller for his wisdom and strength. He was a rare person to find in the political world, someone who worked for the good of our State and its people, instead of furthering his own ambitions. He wanted to be remembered for his "love of Utah." And anyone who crossed paths with Larry can attest to his passion and love for our great State.

Perhaps Larry H. Miller's life can best be summarized in his own words quoted in the *Deseret News* this week. He said, "You know, I don't want this to sound boastful, but I really have had an extraordinary life." Yes, Larry did live an extraordinary life and I honor him for the contributions he made to Utah, its citizens, and most importantly to his family. His influence will never be forgotten, and his example will be followed by generations to come.

NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Eye Bank Association of America, the Georgia Eye Bank, and the recognition of March as National Eye Donor Month.

Eye banks today provide for more than 50,000 corneal grafts for transplantation each year. In Georgia alone, citizens donated enough ocular tissue to provide over 1,200 corneas to their fellow Georgians. The generosity of these donors allows for better eye care and the gift of improved sight for those lucky enough to receive transplants.

The Eye Bank Association of America is the oldest transplant association in the United States and has restored sight to nearly 1 million individuals. The association was created in 1955 when 12 eye banks formed with the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. Since 1961, more than 600,000 corneal transplants have been performed, restoring the sight of men, women, and children ranging from 9 days to 107 years old. This year, I am proud to commend Dr. Bruce Varnum, chair of the Eye Bank Association of America, from my home State of Georgia, for his excellent service and commitment to advancing eye transplantation and donation.

Corneal blindness can develop from a variety of diseases, injuries, or infections. These transplants have over a 90 percent success rate and give renewed hope for those in need of a new beginning.

Despite these encouraging numbers, many Americans are still left waiting in the dark. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to consider becoming eye donors to allow for the miracle of sight that so many of us take for granted. By working with the National Eye Banks Association and local eye

banks, we involve ourselves in the selfless and kindhearted spirit that defines the American people. The role of eye donors is paramount in assisting those who have tragically lost the ability to see.

Mr. President, lawmakers have recognized March as National Eye Donor Month since President Reagan proclaimed the first one in 1983 and I am honored on behalf of the residents of Georgia and those throughout the country to recognize March as National Eye Donor Month.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

My fiancé and I bought a home in Caldwell in May and we moved out of his parents' home. While living with his parents, we paid rent and part of the bills. We knew, when we moved, we would be fine. Unlike many people, we know how to live within our means and stay below that mark in case of an emergency—like the cost of gas increasing at such an astronomical rate. His parents are a different story. They are in the group that overextended themselves, got the big house loan that any banker with common sense should have said no to but gave them the loan anyway with an adjustable rate. At the time, we knew if they gave up a couple of things (like cable tv) they would make ends meet. That is far from the truth now. In just a couple of months, gas has gone up and affected every end of life. Food is now more expensive. Other items like shampoo, cleaners, clothing, and medications have increased too with no end in sight. Even if they gave up the cable tv, drinking, smoking and anything extra, they can barely make it now. Sometimes I feel guilty for moving out and trying to create our own household and family. A child should be able to move out, make it with a supposedly 'living wage job' (which is rare and far in-between in the state of Idaho) and not have to either run back to the parents because the economy has sunk to the black hole of doom or have the parents move in with them because they are not capable of supporting themselves in the same economy.

Congress needs to stop bickering and aggravating each other and be adults—work together; otherwise those states they are supposedly working for are going to crash and burn. I know it is an election year and each party is trying to get their person elected. I also know the economy goes into a dive during said election year due to uncertainty about the next president and possible outcome of policies and bills. I am all for increasing domestic oil production if regulations are put in affect to help 'guide' the sales and thus restricting gas and fuel from skyrocketing like it is. OPEC said it would increase production yet oil futures increase on the stock markets. This is getting out of hand and a small group of people are profiting greatly while draining the hard earned money from everyone. It will backfire and it will not be pretty. Instead of fighting with the oil companies, tell them fine, thanks for all the fish. Get new technology and alternative fuel sources reved up. Stop the oil companies from bullying smaller companies from developing new fuel sources. Take the tax breaks from the oil companies and give them to the companies who have proven examples of alternative fuels and technology to work with said alternative fuels. Give people who do not own one of those massive Hummers or SUVs a tax break. Because those who bought the massive Hummers and SUVs did not help the situation and they knew it. I know it is unfair, but punishing those who used common sense and chose the practical Ford Fusion over the Hummer because they thought and realized that the Hummer was overkill on the road is unfair too. I would say we need more public transportation, but Idaho is not 'public transportation' friendly. What works in Seattle and Portland would be a cosmic joke in this state. Our communities are spread out to the point a public transportation system would only work with the Star Trek shuttles or transporter. In other words, it is not realistic. These are just my opinions and a small drop of concern in a huge lake.

KRISTA.

The price of gasoline is the cause of my debt going up. With a family of 5, it is hard to cut back anymore than I already have. My wife and I use our vehicles less than we have in the past, but we still are finding it hard to make ends meet due to the fact that when the price of gasoline goes up so does the price of food, clothes, electricity, and many other everyday necessities.

For a solution I cannot understand why the only car company (that I know of) making a natural gas-fueled car is Honda (Honda GX) and the only hydrogen car (that I know of) is made by Honda (Honda FCX). I believe if there were easy access to natural gas gas stations and easy access to hydrogen fuel stations that the cost of the natural gas car and the hydrogen car would be equal to the price that gasoline-powered cars are. I keep hearing about how we need to start drilling offshore for oil, but if we would use vehicles not powered by gasoline, we would not need to do any offshore drilling. I am sure there are inventors out there with ideas for cars powered by something other than gasoline, besides the natural gas and hydrogen, that are not being given the opportunity to mass market their ideas. It looks to me like we have chosen to be dependent on oil and that car companies refuse to look for alternatives to gasoline powered cars. Honda may be making the alternative fuel cars, but they are not making the cars available to the masses, although Honda does not build hydrogen or natural gas gas stations. Without easy access to the fuel need for the hydrogen, natural gas, and even the electric car then you are not truly giving the consumer

the opportunity to choose any car powered by anything but gasoline.

Thanks for your time.

JEFF.

I applaud your efforts to communicate with Idahoans in an effort to gain an understanding of what we see on a daily basis. Perhaps there are some politicians that still want to feel the pulse of those who elect them. I am not an Idaho resident, but spent most of my 30 years growing up and living in the state. I now reside in Washington and more specifically in the northern Puget Sound system.

When the increase in fuel prices became more than I could justify I was faced with a decision to use our mass transit system. I could not be more pleased with the level of service offered. In comparison, many local areas in Southern Idaho do not have a public transportation system that carries a similar weight. With the increase in traffic in the treasure valley one would think that a mass transit system would be a logical solution. It benefits both economically and environmentally make it a decision I believe is a must. What future planning is in the works to create a suitable mass transit system that would be utilized if any? I encourage the use of a committee to explore more efforts for carpooling, expanded bus systems, and light rail for a county connect system. If you want to see a system that works, check out Seattle, I believe we offer a very good solution for transportation all around this region.

I encourage your continuing goal of thinking outside the box for solutions to meeting the ever increasing energy crisis facing Idaho. This should be a task all politicians should be working together on.

Warm regards,

NATE, Marysville WA.

I do appreciate the opportunity to "sound off" on the energy issue. I am of the belief that Congress has been delinquent in its responsibility to the United States citizens. I agree that we need to work hard on sources of energy that are less harmful to our environment; however, in the short run, we need to provide for our needs.

I am not aware of any solution that will provide immediate relief to the price of gasoline and diesel; however, it will not get any better by talking about it for another 5 years. If we had faced the problem 10 years ago, we would not have the problem today.

We need to drill now and we need to do it everywhere there are known deposits of oil. We need to be good stewards of the land in the process (we do know how to do that) but we need to provide for our own domestic needs.

Oil is a commodity, and like all commodities, the price will fall as the supply increases. Whether it is Alaska, off shore or the Rocky Mountain Shale oil, I believe we need to pursue the development of these deposits, and the construction of sufficient pipelines and refineries to deliver the products to our citizens.

Thank you again for your request for input. I look forward to seeing the Senate and House take positive long term steps for the "every day" citizens of our nation.

PETE, Ontario, Oregon.

Not too long ago (2½ years), I remember buying gasoline for less than \$2 a gallon. I drive a Honda Civic and also have a Dodge Dakota that I use during the winter months when four-wheel drive is needed to get up and down my mountain road. I put the most miles on my Honda by far.

Buying gasoline at \$4 a gallon has now become a major monthly expense, requiring me to cut back spending in other areas such as